

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing (day/month/year)	25 AUG 2004
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Applicant's or agent's file reference

19365-092963

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/US03/07790

International filing date (day/month/year)

13 March 2003 (13.03.2003)

Priority date (day/month/year)

14 March 2002 (14.03.2002)

Applicant

INTIER AUTOMOTIVE SEATING OF AMERICA, INC.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Authorized officer

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Form PCT/IPEA/416 (July 1992)

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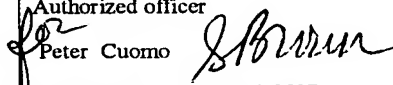
CLARK HILL

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US03/07790	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 13 March 2003 (13.03.2003)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 14 March 2002 (14.03.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): B60N2/30 and US Cl.: 297/15		
Applicant INTIER AUTOMOTIVE SEATING OF AMERICA, INC.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>5</u> sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 		
Date of submission of the demand 14 October 2003 (14.10.2003)	Date of completion of this report 13 July 2004 (13.07.2004)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer  Peter Cuomo Telephone No. 703-308-0827	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/07790

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☐ the international application as originally filed.☒ the description:

pages 1-10 as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

☒ the claims:

pages NONE, as originally filed

pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages 11-15, filed with the letter of 03 May 2004 (03.05.2004)

☒ the drawings:

pages 1-9, as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages NONE, as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in printed form.☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:☐ the description, pages NONE☒ the claims, Nos. 16-20☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US03/07790

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The amendments filed on May 3, 2004 have been considered in their entirety and all previous objections have been withdrawn.

Claims 1-15 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a riser mechanism including a first link slidably coupled to said seat cushion and pivotally coupled to the floor and a second link pivotally coupled to said seat cushion and slidably coupled to said floor or a front and rear link including an upper arm pivotally coupled to said seat cushion.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

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VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

The amendments filed on May 3, 2004 have been fully considered and the objections have been withdrawn.

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VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the questions whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

amendments filed on May 3, 2004 have been considered in their entirety and the objections have been withdrawn.

What is claimed:

1. A seat assembly for supporting an occupant above a floor having a load floor and a recess extending therebelow, said seat assembly comprising:

a seat cushion extending between a seating surface and a bottom surface; and

5 a riser mechanism extending between said bottom surface of said seat cushion and the floor for allowing selective movement of said seat assembly between a seating position to support the occupant above the load floor and a stowed position disposed within the recess in the floor, said riser mechanism including a first link extending between an upper first end slidably coupled to said seat cushion and a lower first end pivotally coupled to the floor and a second link
10 extending between an upper second end pivotally coupled to said seat cushion and a lower second end slidably coupled to the floor.

2. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 1 including a pivot pin pivotally coupling said first and second links to each other.

15 3. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 2 including a panel operatively coupled to said riser mechanism for movement with said riser mechanism between said seating position, wherein said panel conceals the recess in the floor, and said stowed position, wherein said panel is disposed within the recess providing access thereto to allow said seat assembly to be stowed in
20 the recess.

4. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 3 including a panel bracket coupling said panel to at least one of said first and second links such that said panel moves with said seat assembly between said seating and stowed positions.

5. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 4 including a forward arm extending between one forward end pivotally coupled to said first link and an opposite forward end slidably coupled to said panel bracket for supporting said panel during movement between said seating and stowed positions.

6. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 5 including a rearward arm extending between one rearward end pivotally coupled to said second link and an opposite rearward end pivotally coupled to said panel bracket for supporting said panel during movement between said seating and stowed positions.

7. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 6 including a locking mechanism for selectively locking said seat assembly in said seating position, said locking mechanism including a lock pin fixedly secured to one of said first and second links, and a hook lockingly engagable with said pin for maintaining said seat assembly in said seating position, said hook pivotally coupled to said seat cushion for selective movement in and out of said locking engagement with said pin.

8. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 7 including a cushion bracket fixedly secured to said seat cushion, said cushion bracket including a slot formed therein for slidably

receiving said lock pin therethrough during movement of said seat assembly between said seating and stowed positions.

9. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein said lock pin is fixedly secured to one of said upper first and second ends of one of said first and second links and protrudes through said slot in said cushion bracket to define sliding engagement between said upper end of said first link and said seat cushion.

10. A seat assembly for supporting an occupant above a floor having a load floor, a recess below the load floor and an intermediate structure extending therebetween, said seat assembly comprising:

a seat cushion extending between a seating surface and a bottom surface;

a seat back pivotally coupled to said seat cushion for movement between a support position and a forwardly stowed position overlying said seat cushion;

15 a riser mechanism extending between said bottom surface of said seat cushion and the floor for allowing selective movement of said seat assembly between a seating position to support the occupant above the floor and a stowed position disposed within the recess in the floor, said riser mechanism operatively coupled to said seat back and including front and rear links each pivotally coupled to said seat cushion and the floor for allowing selective movement of said seat assembly between said seating and stowed positions;

20 a pivot pin extending between a proximal end fixedly secured to one of said front and rear links and a distal end, said pivot pin rotatably journaled to said seat cushion between said proximal and distal ends;

a radial arm extending radially outwardly from said distal end of said pivot pin;

and

a radial link extending between said seat back and said radial arm for pivoting
said pivot pin in response to movement of said seat back between said support and forwardly
5 stowed positions, respectively, to cause movement of said seat assembly between said seating
and stowed positions.

11. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 10 wherein each of said front and rear links
includes an upper arm pivotally coupled to said seat cushion.

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12. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 11 wherein each of said front and rear links
includes a lower arm extending perpendicularly thereto.

13. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 12 wherein each of said front and rear links
15 includes an intermediate portion pivotally secured to the intermediate structure of the floor.

14. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 13 including a panel supported by said front
and rear links for movement with said riser mechanism between said seating position, wherein
said panel conceals the recess in the floor, and said stowed position, wherein said panel is
20 disposed within the recess providing access thereto to allow said seat assembly to be stowed in
the recess.

15. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 14 including a dampener extending between said lower arm of one of said front and rear links and the floor for dampening said movement of said seat assembly between said seating and stowed positions.

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